

Appl. No.: 10/634,240  
Amdt. dated 12/14/2005  
Reply to Office action of September 15, 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A container, comprising:

a container body formed by a wall, wherein the wall defines a generally planar end wall and a side wall joined to an outer periphery of the end wall and extending away therefrom, and wherein the opening is defined in the end wall;

an opening defined in the end wall of the container body, the opening being formed by cutting the end wall so as to remove a panel from a remaining portion of the end wall such that the panel and remaining portion comprise the same material, the panel being sized to substantially completely cover the opening;

the panel heat staked being reattached to the remaining portion of the end wall of the container body covering the opening so as to create a sealed, frangible interface between the panel and the remaining portion of the end wall defining the opening; and

a pull feature joined to the panel and which, when pulled, causes detachment of the panel from the remaining portion of the end wall of the container body along the sealed, frangible interface and thereby removes the panel to gain access to the contents of the container through the opening.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) A container according to claim 12, wherein the side wall defines a second opening at an opposite end of the side wall from the end wall, and further comprising a closure attached to the side wall to close the second opening.

4. (Original) A container according to claim 3, wherein the closure comprises a metal end.

5. (Original) A container according to claim 4, wherein the side wall defines a flange encircling the second opening and the metal end is attached to the flange by double-seaming.

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6. (Original) A container according to claim 3, wherein the closure comprises a foil membrane attached to the side wall by heat sealing.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Original) A container according to claim 1, wherein the panel defines an exterior surface and the pull feature is a pull tab joined to the exterior surface of the panel.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Original) A container according to claim 1, wherein the pull feature includes a pull tab and a ring.

11. (Original) A container according to claim 10, wherein the panel defines an outer edge and defines an exterior surface and the pull feature is joined to the exterior surface of the panel such that the ring overhangs the outer edge of the panel, so that when the panel is reattached to the container body, the overhanging portion of the ring engages the container body proximate the opening thus creating the sealed, frangible interface.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Original) A container according to claim 10, wherein the opening defines an inner edge and the panel defines an outer edge, and wherein the ring is joined to the outer edge of the panel, so that when the panel is reattached to the container body, the surface of the ring opposite the outer edge of the panel engages the inner edge of the container body thus creating the sealed, frangible interface.

14. (Canceled)

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15. (Currently Amended) A container, comprising:

a container body formed by a wall, wherein the wall defines an opening in the container body, a generally planar end wall and a side wall joined to an outer periphery of the end wall and extending away therefrom, and wherein the opening is defined in the end wall, the opening having an inner edge;

a panel substantially completely covering the opening, the panel having an outer edge adjacent the inner edge of the opening; and

a pull feature formed separately from and joined to the panel, and including a ring that overhangs the outer edge of the panel and is heat staked sealed to the end wall container body so as to create a sealed, frangible interface, such that pulling the pull feature fractures the sealed, frangible interface and thereby removes the panel to gain access to the contents of the container through the opening.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) A container, comprising:

a container body formed by a wall, wherein the wall defines an opening in the container body, a generally planar end wall and a side wall joined to an outer periphery of the end wall and extending away therefrom, and wherein the opening is defined in the end wall, the opening having an inner edge;

a panel comprising the same material as the container body and substantially completely covering the opening, the panel having an outer edge adjacent the inner edge of the opening; and

a pull feature formed separately from and joined to the panel, the pull feature including a ring that overhangs the outer edge of the panel and extends between the outer edge of the panel and the inner edge of the opening, the ring being heat staked sealed to the inner edge of the opening to create a sealed, frangible interface between the panel and the end wall container, such that pulling the pull feature fractures the sealed, frangible interface and removes the panel from the end wall container.

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18. (Currently Amended) A container comprising:

a thermoformed container body defining a top end of the container and a bottom end of the container, wherein the top end includes an opening, and wherein the container body flares outwardly from the top end to the bottom end; and

a removable lid comprising the same material as the container body attached to the top end of the container body covering the opening;

wherein the removable lid is attached to the top end of the container body by heat staking.

19. (Original) A container according to claim 18, wherein the removable lid is attached to the top end of the container body so as to create a sealed, frangible interface between the removable lid and the top end of the container body.

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Original) A container according to claim 18, wherein the container defines a second opening at the bottom end of the container and a closure attached to the bottom end to close the second opening.

22. (Original) A container according to claim 21, wherein the closure comprises a foil membrane attached to the bottom end by conductive heat sealing.

23. (Original) A container according to claim 18, wherein the removable lid includes a pull feature.

24. (Original) A container according to claim 23, wherein the pull feature includes a pull tab and a ring.

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25. (Original) A container according to claim 18, wherein the removable lid is a panel cut from the top end of the container such that the panel is sized to substantially completely cover the opening.

26. (Withdrawn) A method of manufacturing a container, comprising the steps of:  
forming a wall defining a container body;  
cutting the wall so as to define an opening in the wall and to remove a panel from the wall, wherein the panel is sized to substantially completely cover the opening;  
joining a pull feature to the panel; and  
reattaching the panel to the container body so as to cover the opening and create a sealed, frangible interface between the panel and the wall defining the opening, wherein the pull feature, when pulled, causes detachment of the panel from the container body along the sealed, frangible interface and thereby removes the panel.